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10 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: ORR Participation in the Briefing  
of an Ad Hoc Committee Studying  
U. S. Military Requirements for  
a Future Merchant Marine

1. A special high level advisory committee has been created to make recommendations concerning the future size of the U. S. Merchant Marine which in turn means to make recommendations concerning subsidiaries of our own shipping companies. This committee is headed by Admiral Radford, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It will convene at Woods Hole during the week of 10-14 August.

25X1A9a 2. Mr. Robert Keating, of the National Academy of Science approached Mr. Amory asking for CIA assistance in briefing this special committee. Mr. Amory called me on 7 July and I suggested that Mr. [REDACTED] give the briefing which is scheduled for 11 August and is to be one hour in length.

25X1A9a 25X1A9a 3. The general subject area of our briefing will be the Sino-Soviet Bloc Merchant Marine, 1960-75, with particular emphasis on its cold war capabilities. There is some uncertainty as to the scope of this briefing and the possibility that ONI may give a presentation covering number, size and so forth. However, in discussing the subject with the Department of the Navy contact, it would appear more logical for us to handle the quantitative aspects as well as the cold war threat. I have consulted with Messrs. [REDACTED] who are developing a proposed outline of Mr. [REDACTED] presentation which we plan to discuss with Mr. Keating on 15 or 16 July.

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4. The Navy Department's briefing is scheduled to cover three hours and it is concerned with the hot war aspects of the problem. The Navy is already holding dry runs on its presentation which is broken down into seven parts. The lead-off man will be Admiral Benson who is the Chief of the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS). Admiral Benson will be followed by other officers who will cover Naval control of shipping, atomic weapons systems, air defense systems, the Soviet military threat against overseas transport systems, U. S. Naval countermeasures and design criteria for national defense features in U. S. merchant vessels. The Navy contact is Captain Rhymes, Code 11, Extension 55033. He is in Admiral Grenfell's office, who is Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics).

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Chief, Economic Research Area, ORR

cc: AAD/RR  
ACH/D/S

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OCh/E/RR: [REDACTED] jr/2763 (9 July 1959)